

bers is Panama—thus endorsed by Sepúlveda as a “democratic regime”—the subject of a vicious campaign by the State Department aimed at overthrowing its constitutional government, which is labeled by the United States a “repressive military regime.”

The brutal campaign against Panama was denounced at the OAS assembly by its foreign minister, Jorge Abadía, on Nov. 11. “I have come here today with the painful mission of informing you of the moral and economic aggression against the State of Panama,” Abadía told the OAS. He explained that the aggression against his country had been “carefully conceived inside a global strategy, unscrupulously structured and executed without stinting on resources or procedures.”

He charged that the “subversive movement that emerged in my country,” and the attempts to “break the two-decade alliance between the people and the Panamanian Defense Forces,” bases its “structure, development, and tactics” on what he called a “manual of psychological operations of irregular warfare.”

Abadía denounced the outrageous efforts by the U.S. Congress to overthrow the government of Panama through the unprecedented means of passing laws that demand its overthrow. “I ask myself if it is not a grave danger for member-states that, in the Congress of the United States of America, there is presently a proposed bill called ‘Democracy in Panama Act of 1987,’ in which certain requirements are established for the government of Panama to fulfill in order to be acceptable to the U.S. Congress?” Abadía was referring to Sen. Alan Cranston’s (D-Calif.) S. 1650, which stipulates a boycott of all sugar-product exports from Panama until a U.S.-backed “transitional” government is placed in power.

“Is it then the case that a state, to be able to exist, has to receive the approval of the Congress of another state? Is it then that the Congress of a state can impose change on the government of another state?” asked Abadía.

In a clear reference to the Washington-based oligarchic opposition in Panama known as the Civic Crusade, Abadía denounced “those Panamanians who, having failed in their attempts” to gain popular support inside Panama, “have taken to the streets of the world to shout lies” against Panama.

Indeed, as Shultz was delivering his speech Nov. 10, about 30 Crusade members carried out a small protest outside the OAS headquarters in Washington with signs that read: “Noriega, Shame of America,” “Noriega’s Repression Is Worse Than Somoza’s,” and the like. Inside, Shultz was playing music to their ears, “We will continue to watch efforts in Chile, Panama, and Paraguay to reconstruct a democratic order,” he said. To the attending foreign ministers, his implied comparison between Panama’s Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega and Chile’s Pinochet was outrageous.

General Noriega is the head of Panama’s Defense Forces, a fiercely nationalist institution dedicated to the prospect that the Panamanian people will assume sovereignty over the Panama Canal in the year 2000, as stipulated in the Carter-Torrijos Treaties of 1978.

## Project Democracy and Brazil: new evidence

Brazilian Congressman Guilherme Afif Domingos filed criminal slander charges during the second week of November before Brazil’s Supreme Court against *EIR*’s Rio de Janeiro correspondent, Silvia Palacios de Carrasco. Afif’s suit accuses both Mrs. Carrasco of “slander and defamation,” for an article with her byline in the June 12, 1987 edition of *EIR*, entitled “Project Democracy gang in Brasilia,” and Brazilian Congressman Luiz Alfredo Salomão, for citing, in the course of congressional debates, the *EIR* article and another “apocryphal memorandum,” which Afif ascribes to Mrs. Carrasco.

Although Afif’s legal brief is not specific, it appears that he objects to the idea that he was part of a “group of Congressmen backed by ‘Project Democracy.’”

The *EIR* article in question had reported: “According to a report in *Jornal do Brasil* of May 27, a group of ultraliberals has been secretly meeting to discuss plans for denationalizing oil, in a sumptuous palace in Brasilia made available by the Confederation of Brazilian Commercial Associations (CACB). Among the group, to mention a few, were Liberal Party Deputy Afif Domingos. . . . As it turns out, the CACB, chaired by businessman Amaury Temporal, is the Brazilian arm of Project Democracy’s ‘private enterprise’ mouthpiece, the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE). CIPE is funded by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and National Endowment for Democracy, the public front for [Oliver] North’s Project Democracy!”

“The links between CACB and the CIPE are overt. In a Feb. 4, 1987 bulletin of CIPE, the institute admits to having helped sponsor at least two seminars in Brazil. . . . The CIPE bulletin stated that CACB will direct ‘explanatory sessions on the legislative process, legislative cycle, organizing program and regulatory lobbying. . . .’”

*EIR* not only stands by the above information, but has recently obtained new documentary evidence of Afif’s association with Project Democracy, the National Endowment for Democracy, and CIPE, showing that CIPE co-sponsored an International Conference on the Informal Sector on Oct. 26-27, 1987 in Washington, D.C., whose participants included CACB head Amaury Temporal. The official conference packet included an article by Afif himself.

As the conference brochure reports, the “CIPE is an affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce funded by the National Endowment for Democracy. CIPE acknowledges the support of the Inter-American Foundation, which underwrote travel grants to enable some participants to attend this event.”